

Report of Egypt's Use Of Gas 'Disturbs' U.S.

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The United States said yesterday that it was "deeply disturbed" by reports that Egypt has used poison gas against civilians in Yemen.

A State Department spokesman said the Johnson Administration would support any international action to deal with this problem.

The statement apparently was prompted by the publication of an exchange of letters between Arthur J. Goldberg, the U.S. Ambassador at the United Nations, and Rep. Lester L. Wolfe (D-N.Y.) in which Wolfe suggested that the United States take up reports of the gassing in the Security Council.

In what appeared to be the first official U.S. confirmation of the reports, Goldberg replied that there are "a growing number of indications that gas is once again being used by the U.A.R. air force against the local population in Yemen."

"We are deeply disturbed at press reports that the agent used (against the town of Ileged use of gas.)

Kitaf in January) may have been some new type of nerve gas, as this would introduce an entirely new weapon not previously employed by any nation of the world."

At the State Department, press officer Robert J. McCloskey quoted reports as saying that "hundreds had been killed and many others gravely affected" by gas attacks.

Goldberg said Saudi Arabia had furnished detailed information on the use of gas to the Security Council. Other reports have come from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

It was understood that the United States was waiting for one of the countries directly concerned to take the lead in suggesting what should be done about the situation.

(In London, the British government announced it would consult with other governments to try to stop the al-